

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, and 25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, and 25 are the independent claims.

No claims have been amended by the present Request.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,540,337 (Pollard). Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pollard in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,561,632 (Feinn et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art, alone or in combination as suggested by the Office Action, neither teaches nor discloses all of the features of claims 1, 3, and 25.

Firstly, the ink supply passage variously recited by independent claims 1, 3, and 25 extends beyond the substrate. In contrast, the alleged ink supply passage of the cited art does not.

Secondly, the first and second trenches are formed on respective sides of the substrate. As a result, the ink passage is made more uniform. In contrast, the cited art cannot provide this feature.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Request for Reconsideration is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

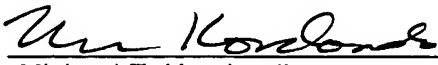
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12-13-06

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